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**U.S. Department of
State**

**Industrial
Security
Division**

**Security is our
middle name.**

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A Guide To Industrial Security

Q. What is Industrial Security?

- A. Industrial Security is a program established to safeguard classified information entrusted to U.S. industry. It is a government/ industry partnership where the government establishes requirements for the protection of classified information entrusted to industry. Industry implements these requirements with Government advice, assistance, and oversight.

Q. Who administers the National Industrial Security Program?

- A. The National Industrial Security Program is the responsibility of the Department of Defense (DOD). The Department of State (DOS) and the DOD, through a 1961 Memorandum of Understanding, agreed to have Defense Security Service (DSS) administer the NISP on behalf of the DOS.

Q. Which office within the DOS is responsible for the DOS Industrial Security Program?

- A. The Industrial Security Division in the Office of Information Security (DS/IS/IND) manages the Department's worldwide Industrial Security Program to ensure that national security and specifically designed sensitive but unclassified information entrusted to the private sector is properly safeguarded. At a minimum, DOS contractors must adhere to the security requirements established within their respective DOS contracts.

Q. How do DS/IS/IND and OBO work together?

- A. DS/IS/IND oversees OBO's classified contracts and contracts which require access to Sensitive But Unclassified and NOFORN (No Foreign Dissemination) information. IND works with OBO in the planning of new projects to ensure that appropriate security requirements are addressed for each project and incorporated into each proposal and contract. IND sponsors uncleared firms for facility clearances when there is a bona fide procurement need, and is the office, which receives certifications of all clearances for contractor personnel performing on OBO contracts. DS/IS/IND conducts security training for OBO contractors, OBO program offices, Contracting Officers and Contracting Officer's Representatives during pre-performance conferences and as needed during contract/project performance. In addition, DS/IS/IND conducts industrial security compliance inspections/reviews of OBO contractors performing domestically and overseas.

Q. What is a Facility Security Clearance?

- A. Facility Security Clearance (FCL) is an administrative determination that, from a security viewpoint that a firm is eligible for access to classified information of the same or lower classification category as the clearance being granted. A firm must have an FCL in order to receive a classified DOS solicitation document and/or to perform work on a classified contract. Additionally, in order for a company to receive classified material at its place of business, the company must also have DSS-approved safeguarding capability.

Q. What is a classified contract?

- A. A classified contract is one in which the contractor requires access to classified information in the performance of the contract and/or the contractor must provide cleared personnel. The actual contract document itself usually is not classified.

Q. Who issues the personnel security clearances for contractor employees under the NISP?

- A. The Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO) issues clearances on behalf of the DOD and User Agencies like DOS. The Office of Personnel Management is now responsible for conducting the actual background investigations.

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